

AREA BOARD 9 PRESIDENT CALLS KELLEY  
CHARGES A CASE OF "SOUR GRAPES"

"Take Care of TEAM"

Sharpe James, president of the Wesquahic area board 9 of the UCC, and Director of Athletics at Essex County Collage, called Mrs. Carolyn Kelley charges against him and Area Board 9 Trustees as being "highly imaginative, grossly in error, and an exercise in promised revenge."

It should be publicly known that Mrs. Kelley is "sore" because Area Board 9 Trustees, of which Mr. Willie Hodge, our present organizer was a member, had the "courage and guts" to drop Mrs. Kelley from a trusteeship after Mrs. Catherine Muldrow, Area Board 9 Trustees secretary, indicated that between March 20th and August 15, 1968, Mrs. Kelley had attended only 1 trustees meeting. Therefore, in accordance with the constitution Article III, Section III which reads "that any trustee shall be removed from office if he or she misses three consecutive trustees, general membership, or executive meeting was enforced by the board of trustees. Upon being notified of the trustees action, Mrs. Kelley berated me over the telephone and "threatened" to "smear us" if we did not reinstate her to the Board of Trustees. However, the Trustees refused to ignore the constitution in view of the fact that Mrs. Kelley was "a no show, no action, no services, invisible member of the Board of Trustees."

On the question of suspension of Area Board 9 personnel. James stated that it was another irresponsible UCC act by Mr. Alvin Oliver, Community Action Director, who is constantly trying to harass our present organizer Mr. Willie Hodge, because he is attempting to do an honest job for the community. Mr. Hodge is trying to remove those UCC workers from the payroll who do not show for work, refuse to work, or fail to perform their expected duties. Mr. Oliver believes Mr. Hodge is too strict. James further stated that Mr. Oliver suspended Area Board 9 personnel without making specific charges, without informing the area board president or

trustees, or even informing the President of UCC, Rev. Levin B. West. "Rev. West was even more shocked than I, when I advised him of Oliver's action. Moreover, Oliver's action precipitated a dangerous situation in which 28 Girl Scouts led by Mrs. Elaine Stewart of 216 Pomona Avenue, was unexpectedly and crudely locked out of a scheduled Girl Scout's program.

In fact, although the suspended personnel has been ordered back to work, neither the workers or the trustees have received a hearing on these so call charges, or any explanation for this UCC intimidation and abuse of office.

James also refuted Mrs. Kelley charges of Area Board 9 having not developed any meaningful programs for young people. He stated that on the contrary, the present Board of Trustees has performed exceptionally well above and beyond the call of duty, demonstrating a sincere and conscious involvement in the health and welfare of the community in which they live. "I am of the firm opinion that this is why the trustees could not accept Mrs. Kelley who was trying to live off the pass and not the present."

We The People of Area Board 9 in the Weequahic section are proud and honest of our record in office which encompass the following action and programs:

1. Co-sponsored with Newark Beth Israel Hospital a request for a grant from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare for a new Community Comprehensive Health Care Service
2. Held public meeting<sup>2</sup> with the Essex County Park Commission to explore programs and facilities improvements in the Weequahic area utilizing federal funds
3. Hodge, Reynolds, and James along with three area board 9 youth members help draft the summer block program for 1968. (Y.O.P.)
4. Mr. & Mrs. Ken Wilson headed a staff of volunteer teachers and workers in designing a summer tutorial program for slow students

5. Project Y.E.S. was designed and introduced (Youth Employment Service) in the South Ward by Area Board 9. Under this program student work talents are recorded in the Area Board, and those in need of help (an errand boy, baby-sit, mow your lawn, do odd jobs, etc.) simply call the Area Board for help.
6. Piano and Music Lessons: An opportunity for children to explore musical talents.
7. Sewing lessons:
8. Student Study Center: A classroom away from school with a volunteer teacher for those in need
9. Community Board of Education: Area Board 9 maintains an office for Newark Board of Education specialist to best serve the community.  
Mrs. Bessie Morize, Guidance  
Mr. William Brown, Community Coordinators  
Mr. Nathaniel Potts, Community Volunteers
10. Community Action Programs: Block and other groups coordinate their efforts to best serve the community
11. Weequahic Community Council: Area Board 9 trustee member Miss Ruth Guffy, collects, prepare, and disseminate a news letter in their name.
12. Project S.T.E.P. designed by Mr. Willie Hodge and and Mr. Ralph Sherman. An educational project addressing itself to split session in schools and other educational needs

In closing, James stated that he would suggest that Mrs. Carolyn Kelley spend more time trying to find out why The TEAM Project is a failure, and wasting millions of dollars rather than indulging in the luxury of smear campaigns. In fact, it's time that the UCC leadership stop giving "lip service" to everything and let their performances speak for itself."

For Mrs. Kelley to suggest that we made a "deal" to obtain Mr. Willie Hodge as Organizer is ridiculous. For Carolyn knows only too well that Area Board Trustees do not have the power to "hire and fire." As a member of the get rich UCC family bag, Mrs. Kelley should think twice before criticizing others who do perform a function.

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Other activity of the Area Board which we are proud of include a unanimous vote of the Trustees after hearing from Mr. Herbert Calloway, President of the Newark South Ward Little League, Inc., to draft a proposal and plan of action to raise \$20,000. for the installment of lights around the Little League field located at St. Peter's Orphan Asylum at 334 Lyons Avenue.